

## GREECE IS LAND OF CHEAP TRAVEL

Prices Low, but Too Much Economy Might Bring Shock to Sensibilities.

By LOUISE CRUISE.

Greece is to many like Carcassonne in the poem, a place where one longs to visit but knows he shall never see. Both distance and finances seem insuperable obstacles, though as a matter of fact neither one should keep one from his heart's desire. It is possible to get inexpensive transportation directly to the Piræus, the port of Athens, and Athens is unquestionably one of the cheapest capital cities in the world. As March, April and May are the perfect months for Greece anyone with time for a holiday might well consider it.

Here a word of warning would not come amiss. Greece is a country where the cost of living is low. The traveler can wander there at small expense, but a too great effort at economy is unwise. In Athens the pensions cannot be recommended. There are two excellent hotels there where one can get room and board for far less than in the de luxe hotels of Paris, London or New York.

If one must economize the thing to do is to take a room at one of the second-grade hotels where only breakfast is provided and get lunch and dinner at the restaurants about town. There are many of these, ranging from the dining rooms of the best hotels to the taverns.

### Amusing Place to Eat.

A taverna is a very amusing little eating place, catering to the plain people. As one enters the larder is spread out before the patron—meat, fish, vegetables and fruit—and he selects the viands he wants the cook to prepare. Anyone who is an enthusiast for local color should get lunch and dinner in a taverna, but few Americans would care to eat in one daily as they would find the food much too exotic. There are other restaurants, however, where the menus are based more on French dishes, though one must add in honesty they are obviously not cooked by a French chef. Nor is the service French. The tablecloths are often spotted and the waiters none too clean. There is one restaurant (possibly there are a few others) where everything is spotless, and if the prices here are a little higher the average American finds it worth the difference. Even here one can get lunch and dinner with wine included for approximately \$1.50, so it is evident that the charges are not exorbitant.

Greek wine, if not resinated, is palatable. Resin is added as a preservative, and in the course of years the Greeks have learned to enjoy the flavor, and so do some foreigners. It is possible to get wine without it and most Americans prefer it that way. A very good white wine may be bought for about 25 cents a quart, and good Greek brandy can be had by the glass for 6 to 12 cents. Wines, meals and room with bath included, it is possible to live comfortably in Athens for \$3.50 a day.

Traveling in Greece even 10 years ago used to be a real adventure, but the roads are being steadily improved and conditions generally are becoming better. The "trains," from the American point of view, are very slow, but, on the other hand, cars for long motor trips may be hired reasonably.

### Plenty of Atmosphere.

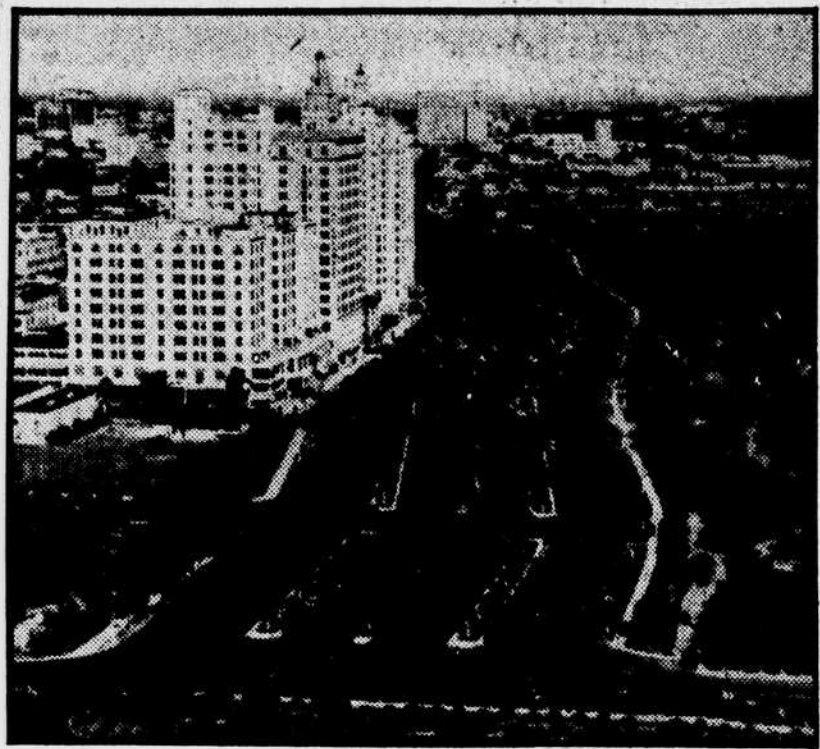
No one who is in the least adventurous should miss a trip by bus. He will probably have to get up very early to catch it, his fellow passenger may have a pair of live hens in a basket under his feet, and he may sit for hours in an atmosphere of garlic, but these slight discomforts will be more than offset by the advantages. He will, of course, be seeing the marvelous beauty of the Greek countryside at a ridiculously low cost, and his fellow passengers will be never ending sources of entertainment.

There is sure to be among them a Greek just returned from New York or Chicago, speaking fluent American and a little patronizing about his mother country, who will gladly act as interpreter. Also the passengers will probably sing, endless Greek songs, the reverse chanted by the driver, the refrain shouted by every one else in the bus. And if the driver falls silent at precipitous bits of the road one of his fares will take up the strain and the music will go on. The melodies are fascinating, quite unlike our harmony, with queer minor chords and cadences, not unlike Chinese music, and certainly Oriental in character.

One of the best of the bus trips is from Athens to Delphi, which takes about six hours. The little hotel there is clean, and the meals, though not luxurious, are perfectly adequate. If the weather is cool it is well to engage a room on the first floor, as only this part of the hotel is heated. The mattresses are about 1 inch thick, and the pillows seem to be made of felt, a kind of bedding apparently dear to the Greeks, who at least in their sleeping arrangements still have a trace of Spartan blood. The writer had been warned that bedbugs were prevalent in Greece, but this is not true. Fleas there probably are, as they prevail over all the Mediterranean seaboard, and a springtime traveler should be prepared for these.

### STEAMSHIPS.

## Where Days Are Palmy



The South's most beautiful boulevard of palms at Miami, Fla. A giant royal palm tree in three rows line Biscayne boulevard, which borders the bay of that name in one of the country's favorite resort cities.

though some lucky souls seem immune to the little pests.

Indeed it is now possible to find at least one passable hotel in every place in Greece, certainly in those parts more usually visited by tourists. In Nauplia, where most people spend the night when visiting Corinth, Mycenae, Tiryns and Epidaurum, some enterprising person has taken over the Venetian fort on the little island of Bourdis, in the harbor, and turned it into a most picturesque small hotel. There is no central heat and certainly no private baths, but there are stoves, and the privilege of sleeping in casemates and taking sun baths on real battlements should more than offset any lack of plumbing. No hotel on the mainland is good, so pay no heed to guides, chauffeurs and agencies and insist on going to Bourdis.

It should also be said that outside Athens, the traveler should drink nothing but bottled water. The water supply of Athens is modern and excellent, and here tap water can be drunk with perfect safety. Even if one is inoculated against typhoid there is danger of dysentery, and water outside of Athens should be treated with discretion. It is also not wise to eat raw fruits, vegetables or salads.

Shoe Lane in Athens is a beguiling thoroughfare whose grubby little shops are full of "antique" vases and bronzes, old silver, Damascus scabbards, pictures, some glass and porcelain and many other enticing objects. One must be a clever bargainer, however, and something of a connoisseur to shop successfully here. The Greek government has passed extremely rigorous financial regulations touching even the money of tourists. Travelers' checks can be cashed only during banking hours and at certain designated places, something every one should know before leaving Athens on any trip. Not only must the amount of money in cash, travelers' checks and letters of credit be declared on entering and leaving the country, but also no letter containing a check may be sent out of Greece without obtaining permission from the authorities. One may not even mail a check on an American bank.

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## CURACAO RETAINS QUIANT ATMOSPHERE

Willemstadt, the Capital, Is Paradise for Bargain Hunter.

WILLEMSTADT, Feb. 19.—Curacao, a "bit of Holland" in the Caribbean, has become so popular with the seagoing set and is today one of the most unspoiled and quaint spots in the West Indies.

Although Dutch is the official language, Spanish and English are both spoken, particularly by the upper classes; and the natives speak a jargon called Papiamentoe, a weird mixture of Dutch, Spanish, English, French, Portuguese and Indian.

Willemstadt, the capital and chief port, is spread along a water front which is usually lined with tiny sailing ships filled with bright-hued fruit from the markets of Venezuela, and piles of fish gleaming like armor in the sun. The port has what seems to

be a canal running through the center, in reality a channel leading from the sea through the town to a huge land-locked basin, where vessels anchor.

One of the pontoons of the bridge which crosses the main channel in a steam launch. At the approach of a vessel the launch races merrily away, swinging the bridge around until it is parallel with the shore and leaving behind a crowd of annoyed pedestrians who were in the act of crossing.

Canals and their quaint bridges, and the windmills rising above them, immediately suggest Holland. The delicately tinted red-roofed houses have curving eaves, tiny peaks and gables which proclaim their Dutch ancestry. The trade marks on the merchandise found in the shops—which, incidentally, are a paradise for the bargain hunter—reveal the fact that in this Dutch setting are gathered races from all over the earth.

The town boasts three cinemas, very good restaurants which specialize in sea food, and several exclusive clubs. Shops of many nationalities offer merchandise which runs the gamut from embroidered silk and carved ivory to perfumes and Panama hats.

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## PAGEANTRY TO REIGN IN BAY OF NAPLES

Cities on Islands and Along Shore to Welcome Spring With Fetes.

NAPLES, Feb. 19.—The charm of the Bay of Naples, where Vesuvius frowns and Capri floats on a sea of blue, will this spring actually be the scene of some of Italy's most notable tourist events.

In the Capri's Easter procession the passage of time has associated the island's celebration with the halo of poetry, made picturesque and fragrant by the profusion of flowers carried with lighted candles.

Notable among the spring attractions will be the Overseas Exhibition to be held in Naples. Within the exhibition, which will cover many special items of interest for tourists, will be the celebrated paintings of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The collection will contain the works of early Renaissance painters and the masterpieces to be borrowed from famous churches, private galleries and government treasuries.

Capri will celebrate the bimillenary of the birth of Augustus with open-air pageantry. In the villas erected by Roman nobles, opera and folk plays will depict the island of Augustus' time with the carnival "Battle of Flowers" in the Augustus Gardens.

Of interest to spring visitors will be the illumination and flood lighting of the ruins of Pompeii at night.

Supplementing the "Battle of Flowers" carnivals, which are to be staged in many Bay of Naples towns, will be the symphonic concerts at the Conservatorium in Naples.

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## Eight and Forty.

District of Columbia Salon No. 14, des Huit Chapeau et Quarante Femmes, met Wednesday evening at the Washington Hotel. A pouvoir meeting was held preceding the regular meeting.

Le Chapeau Departemental Helen M. McCabe represented the 8 et 40 at the Joint Committee held at Legion headquarters for plans to go forward for the annual May day observance at the District World War Memorial. The 8 et 40 Committee will be Les Demi Chapeau Edith W. Quinn and Edith Landvoigt, Amelia Boberg, Emily Carey, Catherine Crompton, M. Edna McIntosh and Mabel F. Staub. Le Chapeau National Mrs. Mary Haws of Pennsylvania will be one of the speakers.

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